



Rio Arriba County Detention Center

(RACDC) POLICY 037: USE OF FORCE

It shall be the policy of the Rio Arriba County Detention facility that the recognized Use of Force policy be followed and recognized by court rulings. Detention personnel shall use the minimal amount of force as is necessary to:

- a. protect self from harm
- b. protect others from harm
- c. prevent escapes
- d. prevent destruction of property

Definition:

Physical Force: The use of bodily parts or approved equipment or chemical used to restraint inmates who may cause bodily harm or death.

Procedure:

1. The Rio Arriba County Detention facility recognizes five level of force and shall instruct all detention staff of the levels in the 40-hour basic detention officer course. These levels are as follows:
 - a. physical presence
 - b. verbal command
 - c. use of restraints, hand cuffs, etc.
 - d. chemical agents
 - e. deadly force
2. All uses of force must have been exhausted before deadly force can be used.
3. Any time use of force is used, documentation must be submitted to administration all the pertinent information.
4. All inmates will be offered medical attention when use of force is used.
5. The (hog tie) hold will not be used as a restraint at the Rio Arriba County Detention facility.



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6. All documentation submitted shall include:
 - a. a description of the incident
 - b. justification for the use of force
 - c. any injuries sustained by inmate or staff
 - d. what amount of force was used
 - e. any disciplinary reports issued
 - f. indication of medical attention offered
 - g. names of staff and inmates that witnessed incident
 - h. whether or not criminal action was taken.